



Crime Victim Compensation: Information for Funeral Service Providers

Violent crime is a senseless, often random act, and we see far too much of it in today's society. It is no longer enough to ensure that offenders receive the harshest punishment under the law. Victims and their families need our support as they attempt to rebuild lives torn apart by tragedy.

- Attorney General Lisa Madigan

What is the Crime Victims Compensation Act?

The Crime Victims Compensation Act offers financial assistance for victims of violent crime. Victims and survivors of violent crime in the State of Illinois may be eligible to receive compensation up to \$27,000, including \$5,000 for funeral and burial expenses.

What types of funeral and burial expenses are covered?

Covered expenses include funeral and burial costs, as well as travel and transport costs to survivors of homicide victims to secure bodies and transport them for burial. These expenses may be covered up to \$5,000.

Who can be compensated for these expenses?

Any person who has paid for, or has become obligated to pay for reasonable funeral and burial expenses for the victim may be compensated.

Can funeral directors apply directly for compensation?

No. Funeral home directors cannot file applications for compensation on their own behalf, but may be compensated directly under the claim of the person who became legally obligated for payment of these expenses.

What crimes are eligible for funeral or burial compensation?

Eligible crimes include murder, involuntary manslaughter, reckless homicide, and driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

What are the requirements for compensation?

- The crime must be reported to law enforcement officials within 72 hours unless prevented by exceptional circumstances;
- The victim must cooperate with law enforcement officials in the apprehension and criminal prosecution of the offender, and with the Office of the Attorney General to verify expenses;

- The victim must exhaust all sources of financial recovery (i.e., health insurance, Public Aid, etc.); and
- The victim must not have contributed to his/her injury by engaging in wrongful conduct or provocation.

Does the victim or claimant need to be a U.S. citizen?

No. The victim or claimant does not need to be a U.S. citizen to be eligible for compensation.

How do those eligible for compensation file a claim?

To file a claim, contact the Crime Victims Compensation Bureau at (800) 228-3368. To qualify for compensation, an application must be completed and returned to our office within two years of the date of the crime. The applicant will be required to submit all requested information and documentation related to the crime to the Office of the Attorney General. The Office of the Attorney General will investigate the claim and make a recommendation to the Court of Claims. The Court of Claims will render a decision based on the application and the Office of the Attorney General's recommendation, and a copy of the decision will be mailed to the applicant.

To obtain statewide service referrals or check the status of your compensation claim, please contact our office at:

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Visit our Web site at www.IllinoisAttorneyGeneral.gov.



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